

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1. – 40. (Canceled)

Claim 41. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent ~~as in claim 4~~ disposed thereabout, the stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a non-woven tubular element having a plurality of openings therein, the tubular element comprising a plurality of interconnected struts which form at least one continuous pathway which extends all the way around the longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the outer surface and the inner surface; the stent further comprising at least one of the struts being a frangible temporary strut, the frangible temporary strut restraining at least two of the interconnected struts from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one frangible temporary strut, the thickness of a portion of the frangible temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the frangible temporary strut;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible temporary strut; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 42. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

(e) seating the stent into the desired body location.

Claim 43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a stent ~~as in claim 30~~ disposed thereabout, the stent having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a generally non-woven tubular body having interconnected struts which form at least one continuous pathway which extends around the longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the outer surface and the inner surface; the stent further comprising at least one frangible temporary strut disposed completely between at least two interconnected struts and restraining the interconnected struts from self-expansion, at least a portion of the stent capable of self-expanding upon breaking of the frangible temporary strut, the frangible temporary strut at least partially constructed from metal, the thickness of a portion of the frangible temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the frangible temporary strut;

(b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;

(c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible restraining member; and thereafter

(d) allowing the stent to self-expand.

Claim 45. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a stent to a desired bodily location comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a catheter with an expandable member and a non-woven stent ~~as in claim 38~~ disposed thereabout,

the non-woven stent formed of a plurality of interconnected struts and having a longitudinal axis, the interconnected struts having an outside surface facing outside the stent, an inner surface facing the longitudinal axis, and a side portion there between, the side portion having a thickness defined by the radial distance between the outer surface and the inner surface, the interconnected struts including at least one temporary strut and permanent struts, the permanent

struts fully defining at least one opening in the stent, the at least one temporary strut restraining self-expansion of at least one permanent strut about the at least one opening, the at least one temporary strut but not the permanent struts breaking upon the application of a predetermined outward pressure to the stent, the thickness of a portion of the temporary strut being substantially narrower than the thickness of any other portion of the temporary strut, at least a portion of the stent constructed and arranged to self-expand upon breaking of the at least one temporary strut, no portion of the temporary strut overlapping any portion of the outer surface of the permanent struts being restrained the pressures selected from the group consisting of: radial pressure, axial pressure, and any combination thereof;

- (b) inserting the stent and catheter in a bodily vessel and delivering the stent to the desired bodily location;
- (c) expanding the expandable member to break the at least one frangible temporary strut; and thereafter
- (d) allowing the stent to self-expand.